



MINUTES

Limpsfield Parish Council

Monday 8 December, 7pm

Oxted Library – Monthly Meeting

PRESENT:

Cllrs Antony Taylor (AT) (Chair), Michael Tinker (MT), Tom Briggs (TB), Bob Harvey (BH), Ann Osborn (AO), Jenny Williams (JW), John Thompson (JT); District Cllr Ian Booth (IB).
Clerk: Sophie Martin (SM)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cameron McIntosh
- Claire Blackwell
- Sarah Butler-Merritt
- Mark Wilson

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Approved and signed as circulated.

4. PUBLIC SESSION None.

5. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Surrey CC & Tandridge DC)

Cllr Ian Booth

- Thornhill: Application submitted for 4 dwellings on Green Belt. LPC has objected. District Councillor has called it in to committee if officers are minded to approve.
- Land behind Whitethorne, Chapel Road: Application refused.
- Surrey Hills National Landscape: In final consultation phase; already being referenced in planning decisions.
- Local Plan: IB believes that progress is being made. There is a page on the TDC website which shows updates.
- JW noted that planning committee members are meeting to consolidate views on Green Belt / Grey Belt policy.

I. Booth

Cllr Cameron McIntosh (notes sent in absence)

- LINK will visit Oxted on Monday 15/12 to assess suitability for a banking hub. CMcl to circulate email to councillors; local businesses representatives also invited.
- SCC YFS has approved Pebble Hill footpath railing planters, though AO has not yet received formal confirmation. Once funding is received, LPC will purchase planters and agree a maintenance contract; VAT to be reclaimed bby LPC.
- Mobile Connectivity: Hopes for progress after Christmas. MBT notes Vodafone/Three now have a mini-cell technology potentially suitable for the St Andrews location—this will be explored.

6. CHAIRMAN'S NOTE None.

7. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

7.1 Report of payments and balances to end November

- Healthy combined balances: £97,198.
- Estimated balance at end December 2025: just under £89,000.

7.2 December payments for approval

- All payments approved as circulated.
- Noted: Invoices received for barrier works and trough installation. Mark Wilson and Bob Harvey to purchase plants/soil for planting; estimated cost approx. £200 (from Trough Replacement budget).

7.3 Minor expenditure / grant requests

7.3.1 St Andrew's PCC Biodiversity Grant – £250

- Purpose: Planting mixed hedges in St Andrews churchyard.
- Proposed by AT, seconded JW. AO and MT recused (MT is on PCC). All others in favour.

7.4 Precept 2026/27 – decision and vote

- TB proposed maintaining the precept at **£33,315** for 2026/7, with likely increase required for LGR in 2027/8. Seconded BH. JT abstained. All others in favour.

7.5 Budget 2026/27 – final overview for approval

- Discussion on ongoing support for village planting considering no future LIB competition entry; budget for Maintenance and CAAMP deemed sufficient.
- AO raised potential LNP projects (cycle loop via Carpenters/Chart, Speedwatch/20mph village signage, volunteer recruitment materials). Supported by the other councillors.
- LNP implementation budget increased to **£3,000** (likely CIL-eligible).

- TB proposed adopting the budget as circulated and with revision (above); seconded by AT. JT abstained (due to precept). All others in favour.

7.6 Locum Clerk for January meeting

- Agreed to appoint locum clerk Terri Waghorn to minute the Full Council meeting on 12/1/26.
- Ann Osborn may act as clerk as backup. Noted: TCB will be away.

8. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

- Draft transfer documents received; lawyers reviewing wording. Searches to be ordered directly.
- Revised HOT/Transfer documents include clawback/buy-back and overage clauses. Clerk has requested draft document. Council felt clawback should not be indefinite; a finite period should be negotiated. Overage term understood to be approx. 125 years. Acceptable terms to be discussed with legal advisers.

8.1 Ellice Road Car Park

- Awaiting feedback from lawyers and information on public toilets/servicing.
- Clerk to arrange initial meeting with NCP (Euro Car Parks proposal already received).

8.2 Stoneleigh Road Allotments & Tidys Green

- Awaiting feedback from lawyers on contract terms.
- To investigate specific terms of “allotments” – does this include provision for community garden?
- It was agreed at last meeting, and has been communicated to TDC/Lawyers that LPC will not complete until sufficient remedial/tidy up work has been completed.
 - TDC has completed laurel hedge and tree works.
 - SM to suggest to TDC that they might provide a skip for a week or two in January to facilitate rubbish removal by allotmenters.
- MT met with Angela Sharkie regarding allotment management; follow-up required with a request for direct contact with all plot holders to reiterate contract terms and that use as an extension to gardens is not allowed and should be treated as change of use.
- Tidys Green: Awaiting searches and legal report. Transfer to complete once diseased oak removed by TDC.

9. OTHER ASSETS

9.1 Assets requiring attention

9.1.1 Trough reinstatement ceremony proposed for Sunday 14/12 (afternoon).

9.1.2 Stanhopes bench: Awaiting delivery. Residents still considering preferred location. BH to install.

9.2 K6 Phone Box

- AO met with Unicorn Restoration—parts and guidance available. Andrew Jackson to quote on refurbishment; AO to arrange site meeting. Quote expected in new year; aim to complete works in current financial year.

10. PLANNING

10.1 Applications for discussion

- Thornhill (A25): Application for 4 houses. LPC has objected (Green Belt development).

10.2 Recent determinations

10.2.1 Whitethorne, Chapel Road – Refused. Encouraging in context of Green Belt protection; Highways also raised several objections.

10.3 Outstanding applications / enforcement - None requiring discussion.

10.4 AOB

10.4.1 Whinchat Cottage – No updates.

10.4.2 Planning Committee to meet informally to discuss Green Belt / Grey Belt issues.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

11.1 General: Barrier renovations at traffic lights completed. No other updates.

11.2 LNP Review: No further updates.

12. HIGHWAYS (Cllr Bob Harvey)

- Ridlands Lane potholes reported on Fix My Street.
- Pebble Hill surface is very poor. Hoping for resurfacing works this financial year. TBC.

13. CHART PLAYGROUND (Cllr Bob Harvey)

13.1 Condition report – BH to review.

13.2 Refurbishment – Remaining works expected this week and next, aiming for completion before Christmas.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Next Newsletter: Target timing Feb/March, when there will be more to report on LGR and Community Asset Transfers.

Meeting closed: 20:35.

